

Oversight

29 NOV 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Thoughts from Discussion with Senator Church,
28 November 1977

1. The number of instances in which Directors have had difficulty getting response from within the Agency in a timely manner, e.g., the case you read in which there was a year's delay between the giving of an order and the next time it had to be repeated, may have been related to the lack of oversight. In short, if the various Deputy Directors felt in a strong enough position with respect to the Director, there was little pressure that could be brought to bear to carry out the Director's orders. When he discovered they hadn't been carried out, the Director had only the option of dismissal. With the oversight process, the Director himself is under added pressure, which is reflected down the stream.

2. Secrecy and the conviction that they knew what was best for the nation more than anyone else were two of the Agency's weaknesses. It takes a series of oversight mechanisms to insure against these mechanisms getting out of control.

3. The Church Committee had a rule that neither the names of agents nor the detailed methods of collecting information would be passed to them.

STANSFIELD TURNER
Director

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